

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9006

S E C R E T SEOUL 6571

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM KISSINGER TO PARK

REF: (A) STATE 208614, (B) STATE 208610

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT PARK AFTERNOON AUGUST 23 TO DELIVER  
MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO HIM CONTAINED REF A.

2. PARK WAS EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE FOR MESSAGE AND EXPRESSED  
HIGHEST PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FOR U.S. ACTIONS IN  
RESPONSE TO AUGUST 18 INCIDENT IN JSA. HE SINGLED OUT  
CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH HIM AND ALSO GAVE FULLEST PRAISE  
TO GENERAL STILWELL FOR PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF JOINT  
TREE-CUTTING OPERATION IN JSA.

3. PARK THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS VIEW THAT INCIDENT MUST BE  
PROPERLY CLOSED OFF. IDEAL RESOLUTION WOULD BE EXPRESSION  
OF REGRET AND APOLOGY, ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY, AND  
REASSURANCE AGAINST REOCCURRENCE OF SUCH PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS  
ON PART OF KIM IL SUNG. THESE ACTIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE  
RESPONSE BY NORTH KOREANS TO BRUTAL KILLING OF TWO AMERICAN  
OFFICERS. HOWEVER, PARK SAID, IN LIGHT OF PAST BEHAVIOR, WE  
COULD NOT REASONABLY EXPECT SUCH RESPONSE. PYONGYANG RADIO  
HAS ALREADY SAID PUBLICLY INCIDENT DELIBERATELY INSTIGATED  
BY U.S.

4. PARK SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, WE SHOULD THINK OF "APPROPRIATE  
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ACTION" TO BRING INCIDENT TO PROPER CLOSE. WITHOUT SUCH ACTION

KIM IL SUNG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. (PARK REITERATED AND EXPANDED ON THIS THEME SEVERAL TIMES DURING OUR MEETING.) HE THEN ASKED WHAT ACTIONS U.S. HAD IN MIND.

5. I REVIEWED FOR HIM CONTENTS OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR HAHM (REF B). I ALSO GAVE PARK GIST OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTS OF AUGUST 22, WHICH WE CULLED FROM AP AND UPI REPORTS, SINCE USIS REPORTING TELEGRAM HAD NOT ARRIVED BY TIME OF 2:00 PM MEETING WITH PARK.

6. PARK IN RESPONSE WENT BACK TO HIS BASIC THEME URGING FURTHER "APPROPRIATE ACTION". WHEN I ASKED HIM SPECIFICALLY WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO SUGGEST AT THIS TIME. IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, HE FELT SHOULD EXACT EYE FOR EYE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE DID ADD THAT HE DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, PRECLUDE LIMITED MILITARY ACTIONS.

7. AS HE REITERATED HIS VIEWS, PARK TALKED OF RETALIATION IN KIND WITHOUT BEING MORE SPECIFIC. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO PUEBLO INCIDENT, RECALLING DIFFERENCES AT THAT TIME WITH SPECIAL EMISSARY VANCE. HE STATED THAT KOREAN PEOPLE ARE SCARED THAT U.S. WILL WITHDRAW FORCES AS WAS CASE FOLLOWING PUEBLO INCIDENT WITHOUT HAVING CAPITALIZED ON THEIR PRESENCE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IN THAT INSTANCE U.S. HAD TO BE CAUTIOUS, SINCE BOTH PUEBLO AND SHIP'S CREW WERE BEING HELD AS HOSTAGE. IN PRESENT CASE, HOWEVER, ON OTHER HAND, NO SUCH RESTRAINT EXISTED.

8. PARK FELT THAT, WITH NEW U.S. DEPLOYMENTS, U.S. AND ROK FORCES TOGETHER HAD SUFFICIENT PREDOMINANT STRENGTH THAT NORTH KOREANS COULD NOT RESPOND SHOULD WE TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO PUNISH THE NORTH IN MATCHING DEGREE FOR LOSS OF TWO AMERICAN LIVES. FURTHERMORE, WHILE THERE WERE VOICES OF CAUTION IN WASHINGTON CONCERNED ABOUT AGGRAVATING WORLD OPINION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOW POWER AND STRENGTH AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO PREVENT REOCCURRENCE OF NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATION.

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9. I REITERATED THAT WE DID NOT MERELY CUT TREE BUT ACTED TO DEMONSTRATE FIRMNESS. IN RESPONSE TO PARK'S REFERENCES TO WITHDRAWALS AFTER PUEBLO INCIDENT, I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, AS WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED, WE HAVE NO PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES AND WOULD ONLY DO SO AFTER CONSULTATION WITH PRESIDENT PARK. PARK AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TREE-CUTTING BUT FELT STRONGLY THAT THIS

WAS NOT ENOUGH.

10. COMMENT: WHILE PARK VEERED AWAY FROM SUGGESTING ANY SPECIFIC ACTION, HE APPEARED TO HARDEN HIS LINE AND SUGGEST SOME VERY LIMITED MILITARY ACTION AS HOUR LONG CONVERSATION ENSUED. CLEAR IMPLICATION OF HIS STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY AT CLOSE OF CONVERSATION, WERE (1) URGING FURTHER ACTION IN KIND EVEN IF THIS WAS MILITARY IN NATURE, IN CONTRAST TO STATEMENTS YESTERDAY BY MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (SEOUL 6523); (2) PRESSING US NOT TO WITHDRAW U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN KOREA BEFORE AUGUST OR REDEPLOY FROM KOREA UNITS SENT IN SINCE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT UNTIL INCIDENT SOMEHOW SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED. WHILE I WAS NOT PRESENT AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH PARK, MY IMPRESSION WAS HE WAS LESS CAUTIOUS AND MORE FIRE EATING ON THIS OCCASION AND WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT WE TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO PUNISH NORTH KOREANS TO POINT OF THOROUGHLY DISCOURAGING REOCCURRENCE OF COMMUNIST PROVOCATIONS.  
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